

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8845

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATED PRESS NEWS ITEM

REF: STATE 231620,

1. AP REPORT BASED IN PART ON CHARGE'S REPLIES TO QUESTIONS POSED AT EMBASSY'S REGULAR FRIDAY AFTERNOON BACKGROUND PRESS BRIEFING. LEAD PARAGRAPH, HOWEVER, GOES BEYOND WHAT WAS ACTUALLY SAID.

2. REFERRING TO PRESS REPORTS FROM SECRETARY'S PARTY TO EFFECT THAT SOVIET DIPLOMATS WERE ACTIVE IN TRYING TO UNDERMINE SECRETARY'S CURRENT EFFORTS, JOURNALISTS REQUESTED COMMENT AND CHARGE'S VIEW OF CURRENT SOVIET POSTURE TOWARD U.S. POLICY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. CHARGE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD SEEN PRESS REPORTS QUOTING MEMBERS OF SECRETARY'S PARTY, BUT COULD NOT CONFIRM WHAT WAS ACTUALLY SAID. AS FOR SOVIET POSTURE, HE CHARACTERIZED SOVIET PRESS TREATMENT ALONG LINES DESCRIBED IN AP REPORT AND INDICATED THAT IN HIS VIEW IT EMBODIED A MISREPRESENTATION OF US POLICY TOWARD AREA.

3. CHARGE WAS ASKED WHETHER REPRESENTATIONS HAD BEEN MADE TO SOVIET GOVERNMENT AND HE REPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT DISCUSS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS. WHEN ASKED IF THERE HAD BEEN UNOFFICIAL DISCUSSIONS, HE REPLIED THAT WHEN QUESTION ARISES IN OUR INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS WITH SOVIET

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OFFICIALS AND JOURNALISTS, WE OF COURSE MAKE OUR VIEWS KNOWN.

4. QUOTATIONS TOWARD END OF ARTICLE REGARDING SOVIET AIMS
APPARENTLY DERIVED FROM GENERAL OPINION HELD IN WESTERN DIPLOMATIC
CIRCLES AND OFTEN EXPRESSED AT SOCIAL OCCASIONS WHEN JOURNALISTS
ARE PRESENT.
MATLOCK

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